EXHIBIT 47

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THE UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:)

)   File No. C-08755-A

SOLARWINDS   )

WITNESS: Timothy Gordon Brown

PAGES: 1 through 311

PLACE: Securities and Exchange Commission

           100 F Street, N.E.

           Washington, D.C. 20549

DATE: Tuesday, March 8, 2022

     The above-entitled matter came on for hearing, via

WebEx, pursuant to notice, at 9:23 a.m.

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1   APPEARANCES:
2
3   On behalf of the Securities and Exchange Commission:
4   LORY STONE, ESQ., Senior Counsel
5   WILLIAM BRAD NEY, ESQ., Senior Counsel
6   BENJAMIN BRUTLAG, IT Forensic Staff
7   KENNETH ZAVOS, IT Forensic Staff
8   MARGARET VIZZI, IT Forensic Staff
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1   C O N T E N T S(CONT.)
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19   Kellie Pierce and Eric Quitugua   265
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5
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9   3   Ground Rules   9
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18   149   Emails, Kellie Pierce to Tim
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20   150   Email, Kellie Pierce to
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1   P R O C E E D I N G S
2   MS. STONE: We'll go ahead and go on the
3   record. It is 9:23 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, on
4   March 8, 2022.
5   Mr. Brown, please raise your right hand while
6   I administer the oath. Do you swear or affirm to tell
7   the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?
8   THE WITNESS: I do.
9   Whereupon,
10   TIMOTHY GORDON BROWN
11   was called as a witness and, having been first duly
12   sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
13   EXAMINATION
14   BY MS. STONE:
15   Q   Mr. Brown, can you please state your full name
16   and spell your name for the record?
17   A   Sure. Timothy Gordon Brown, T-i-m-o-t-h-y, G-
18   o-r-d-o-n, B-r-o-w-n.
19   Q   Thank you. I'm Lory Stone. Also with me
20   today from the Commission are Brad Ney, Benjamin
21   Brutlag, Era Calhoun, Ken Zavos and Margaret Vizzi. We
22   are officers of the Commission for the purposes of this
23   proceeding. This is an investigation by the United
24   States Securities and Exchange Commission, in the matter
25   of SolarWinds, Inc., C-08755, to determine whether there

2 (Pages 2 to 5)

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1   Q   And if Symantec or Defender ATP were disabled,
2   would SolarWinds receive an alert?
3   A   Yeah, absolutely.
4   Q   Who would that go to, the security --
5   A   As well as Netskope being disabled, would get
6   us a report. That would go to our security team, Eric's
7   group.
8   Q   Okay. So we just have one more topic area to
9   cover. Are we okay to push on?
10   A   Yes.
11   Q   So earlier in one of our exhibits this morning
12   -- I think it was Exhibit 19 -- there was a SolarWinds
13   scorecard. Are you familiar with the term SolarWinds
14   scorecard?
15   A   We have a number of scorecards, so we'll have
16   to determine which scorecard.
17   Q   Okay. Let's go ahead and look back at Exhibit
18   19.
19   A   Mm-hmm.
20   Q   And I believe -- so this is the Security and
21   Compliance Program Quarterly Overview, dated August 16,
22   2019, and there is a scorecard that I believe begins at
23   Page 8, Page 9, and it's just labeled "SolarWinds
24   Scorecard."
25   A   Can you show that one? Okay, so this

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1   scorecard, yeah. This is the NIST framework scorecard,
2   NIST control -- Scorecard, so yes.
3   Q   What is the NIST -- did you say NIST
4   Compliance Scorecard?
5   A   It's called the NIST CSF -- I don't remember
6   what the CSF stands for. But NIST defines -- so if you
7   go up a slide, here go back to the framework -- so the
8   NIST CSF defines -- keep going -- identify, detect --
9   yeah, detect, respond, recover, I believe. Go up one
10   more, I think. Yeah, so here are the NIST categories.
11   Identify, protect, detect, respond and recover, and
12   those are NIST categories for NIST maturity level, and
13   that's a NIST CSF is a standard model to measure
14   security levels.
15   Q   And when did the scorecard, the SolarWinds
16   scorecard based on NIST, when did that come into being?
17   A   This is from what year or what date?
18   Q   No, just generally, when -- were the
19   scorecards already being produced when you started at
20   SolarWinds, or was it something that you helped --
21   A   So we followed the NIST model for -- since
22   before I was here, right. Eric and team had put NIST in
23   as a framework to follow, in a framework to model. The
24   scorecard was a way to represent where we were, and
25   where we were going, so it was a measurement of the

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1   organizational maturity level utilizing the NIST
2   standard.
3   Q   So I'm going to ask again --
4   A   Yeah.
5   Q   When was the scorecard actually created?
6   A   Right. I'd have to -- I don't know
7   completely, right. I have this one reference, so it was
8   created at least before this reference, whatever the
9   date of the reference was.
10   Q   Did you help to create it or was it in
11   existence, the scorecard, was it in existence when you
12   arrived?
13   A   Prior to -- so, no, the scorecard was not in
14   existence prior to arrival. So this was part of the
15   overall deck, to be able to show -- show security for
16   the company, so the scorecard was a component of that
17   deck that was produced.
18   Q   Did you help create the scorecard, the
19   template?
20   A   Yeah, yes.
21   Q   Did anyone else help you in creating the
22   template?
23   A   Created with Rani Johnson prior to putting it
24   into the deck to be --
25   Q   The Slide 9 that we're looking at, on the

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1   right there are maturity levels. Did you create these
2   levels or does that come from NIST also?
3   A   Those are NIST levels.
4   Q   All right. So tell us how any given scorecard
5   is generated. What is the process? And again, the
6   interior pages break down the different categories and
7   assign numbers. What is the process for generating any
8   given in this scorecard?
9   A   So each one of these components, they
10   identify, protect, detect, respond, recover, have a
11   number of different items associated with them, a number
12   of different categories associated with them, and those
13   are given essentially a score for each one of those
14   components, and then those components are averaged to
15   give you the over all score for the area.
16   Q   And each of these pages, so Pages 10 through
17   14, at the top they have highlights. Did you put
18   together the highlights?
19   MS. RIEWE: Do you want to turn --
20   THE WITNESS: Where are we what --
21   MS. STONE: Sure.
22   BY MS. STONE:
23   Q   We can look at Page 11, which is protect.
24   A   Okay. Go to Exhibit 19. Here we go. Thank
25   you.

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1   Q   So there's, I don't know, maybe seven bullets
2   at the top under "Highlights."
3   A   Yeah.
4   Q   There's highlights on every page. I'm
5   wondering who puts together the highlights?
6   A   So the highlights were put together with
7   myself and Rani and discussing with, you know, Eric and
8   the security team. So again, this is part of our larger
9   deck for our Security and Compliance Program Quarterly
10   Review, so produced in August of 2019, and the scorecard
11   was one of the ways to explain where our program was,
12   how our program changed through time, and the categories
13   and the notes were produced by us.
14   Q   All right.
15   A   The maturity levels on the first page are a
16   NIST framework category component.
17   Q   So it looks like for Pages 10 to 14, it looks
18   like there's only one entry that received a NIST
19   maturity level of one, and that's on Page 11 under
20   "Protect," for authentication, authorization, and
21   identity management. Do you see that?
22   A   Yeah, correct.
23   Q   And at the top of the page under "Highlights,"
24   it says, "Access and privilege to critical systems/data
25   is inappropriate." Can you tell me specifically what

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1   factors contributed to the score of one for
2   authentication, authorization, and identify management.
3   A   Yeah. So when we -- so when we look at
4   authentication, authorization, identity management, in,
5   you know, in 2019 --
6   Q   August of 2019, yes.
7   A   2019. We had processes in place to be able to
8   create users, delete users, terminate users. All of
9   those processes were paper, so paper processes existed
10   to be able to do those functions, so somebody got hired,
11   what we call SC process was created. So HR drove the
12   SOC process, that person is joining engineering, they'll
13   get access to these resources. Then emails went out
14   from that SOC process, to say please create this user,
15   give them access to the system, but the process was
16   manual. The process went through and had -- it
17   essentially worked but it had humans involved, and
18   whenever humans are involved, it's not as efficient and
19   it's not as prescriptive as what we would like it to be.
20   So this is calling out that one of the places
21   where we need to improve is absolutely the identity
22   management side of the world, making it more automated,
23   making it more controlled, making it more mature from an
24   identity and access management perspective.
25   Q   Okay. So that was for -- I'm sorry, I'm just

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1   going to try to hurry you along a little bit. It's
2   late, beyond the scope of my question. So that was for
3   -- I think you said for hiring and terminating
4   employees; is that right, the paper process?
5   A   Yeah, paper process for that, correct.
6   Q   What about at the time in August 2019, was
7   SolarWinds not effectively limiting rights, based on an
8   employee's job function?
9   A   So, we had rights assigned and certain aspects
10   of the company were audited. 2018, I believe, we were
11   going public or had become public. I'm not sure exactly
12   the date of public, but as part of public we then had
13   SOX assets that were audited, and those audits were --
14   were fine from a program perspective. We had to attest
15   to having users having the right access rights for the
16   SOX controlled assets.
17   This is a general statement across the entire
18   company of identity, we should start a program for
19   identity, we should start a team for identity, we
20   should, you know, move forward with identity, and move
21   away from manual processes that are error prone, and
22   move towards automated processes and programs that are,
23   you know, more efficient and less error prone.
24   Q   So rights based on job function were also
25   manual at this point in time, is what I'm hearing?

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1   A   Correct.
2   Q   What about the granting of limited default
3   permissions, was that also manual at this time?
4   A   Through the SOC program, you -- you got
5   default permissions, based on your role within the
6   company, and that went through a process to be able to
7   get that. So you didn't get rights to everything by any
8   means. You're not given privileges on system. You were
9   given the rights that were assigned to you.
10   Also at this time, we had dash admin account,
11   so privileged accounts for IT need to have a separate
12   account and work with a separate account to do
13   administrative functions and control.
14   We also had privilege management systems in
15   place with Icotic (phonetic) to help administer
16   privileged account access, so you needed to be able to
17   authenticate to a different system, and get an
18   appropriate authentication to be able to access
19   privileged accounts in the system.
20   But still, you know, if you look at a one, the
21   one classification is that the organization has ad hoc
22   and consistent reactive approach to meeting the security
23   control objectives. That's what a level one is.
24   I'm not saying that there wasn't a program.
25   I'm saying that they, this program can be improved, and

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 1              PROOFREADER'S CERTIFICATE
 2
 3    In the Matter of:   SOLAR WINDS
 4    Witness:        Timothy Brown
 5    File Number:     C-08755-A
 6    Date:           Tuesday, March 8, 2022
 7    Location:       Chicago, Illinois
 8
 9         This is to certify that I, Christine Boyce,
10    (the undersigned), do hereby certify that the foregoing
11    transcript is a complete, true and accurate
12    transcription of all matters contained on the recorded
13    proceedings of the investigative testimony.
14
15
16    _____    _____
17    (Proofreader's Name)         3-21-2022
18
19
20
21
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23
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 1              REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
 2
 3    I, Jemima Nobleza Euell, reporter, hereby certify that
 4    the foregoing transcript is a complete, true and
 5    accurate transcript of the meeting indicated, held on
 6    3-8-22, at Chicago, Illinois, in the matter of:
 7    SOLAR WINDS.
 8
 9    I further certify that this proceeding was recorded by
10    me, and that the foregoing transcript has been prepared
11    under my direction.
12              3-21-2022
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